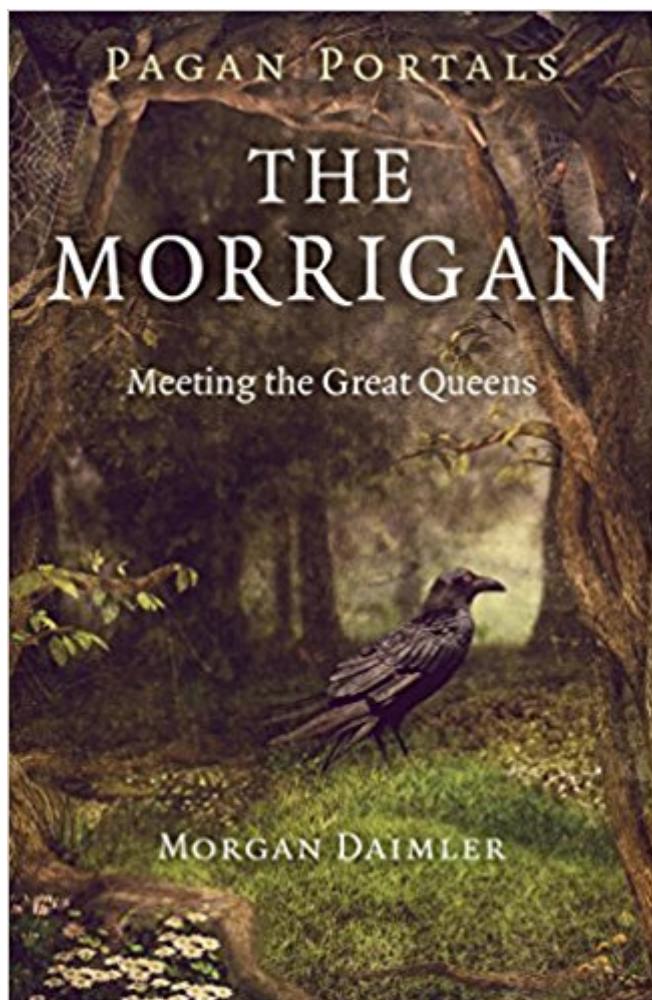


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Pagan Portals - The Morrigan: Meeting The Great Queens



Synopsis

On shadowed wings and in raven's call, meet the ancient Irish goddess of war, battle, prophecy, death, sovereignty, and magic. This book is an introduction to the Morrigan and several related goddesses who share the title, including Badb and Macha. It combines solid academic information with personal experience in a way that is intended to dispel the confusion that often surrounds who this goddess was and is. The Morrigan is as active in the world today as she ever was in the past but answering her call means answering the challenge of finding her history and myth in a sea of misinformation, supposition, and hard-to-find ancient texts. Here in one place, all of her basic information has been collected along with personal experiences and advice from a long-time priestess dedicated to a goddess who bears the title Morrigan.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Much has been said and written about the Morrigan, and I'm going to go out on a limb and say much more will be written about Her, much of it will be fantasy, and some will be academically dense. This book is a very short survey of what we know about the Morrigan in an easy, presentable way. It is aimed at the person who is not ready yet to read the more dense books or needs a compass to navigate the confusing material in books and websites. The book is made up of an Introduction and seven chapters. The Introduction starts by laying out the aim of the book and then goes into the different Morrigans, and their functions that the author will be talking about. It also discusses the different meanings that we have for the word Morrigan. Chapters 1-4 give you

everything you need to know if someone asks you who are the Morrigans. Each of the first three chapters discuss Morrigu, Badb, and Macha and then the fourth chapter discusses the other Goddesses who MIGHT be conflated with them or are considered one of them. The authors in most cases gives you the historical material associated with each of the Goddesses, their relationships (mothers, fathers, husbands), the forms they take, their associations and realms of influence and then the author gives us a poem, or an invocation or an offering prayer at the end of each chapter. Chapter 5 gives us a glimpse of The Morrigan in mythology. In chapter 6 the author talks about The Morrigan and animals, and in chapter 7 the author talks about The Morrigan in the modern world and how to find Her. As an introductory text this book is an awesome start. There is no way you can fit all the contradictions that are The Morrigans in one text, but this book does a good job of it. I especially loved the poems, invocations, offerings and prayers and of course the bits of the author's life that she chose to share with us. I think that if you are interested in The Morrigan, then this book is a must on your shelf. It is well researched, well written and engaging to the last word.

As someone who has been following the Morrigan for several years, I'm familiar with the struggle to find decent literature that isn't overly Wicca-influenced and pays attention to anthropological evidence rather than solely personal experience and interpretation. There is a place for both, but Morrigan information is usually very heavily swayed to the latter. This book seems to have more of a focus on celtic reconstructionism, and as such, it offers many different ideas and evidence, as well as Daimler's personal opinions and how she interprets the facts in her own practice. She does usually clearly label her opinions as such, which I really appreciate. That said, Daimler's voice and writing style do flow very well and it was a very nice and easy read. It gave a lot of other references in the bibliography to check out, and helped me to wrap my mind more around the fact that the deity I follow isn't just a singular form -- She is a myriad of different female, Irish deities, for a myriad of different reasons, and there is no way to be 100% certain of who EXACTLY made up her group. Daimler, again, offers her opinions of which deities seem to best fit as part of the Morrigu but ultimately leaves it in the reader's hands to decide how they want to view the Morrigan. By not specifically telling the reader what is true and what isn't, Daimler's book won't be easy for some people to read. With the Morrigan there is no straight and easy answer for almost any part of her mythology, so it is frustrating to have something explained one way, then on the next page it be countered with an opposing myth. Daimler offers her ideas but doesn't fully elaborate upon her experience in order to remain fairly unbiased. I would love to see another book written by her in

which she explains how the Morrigan looks specifically within her practice, but I can understand why it would be asking for trouble. Overall, this is one of the first books on the Morrigan that didn't have me rolling my eyes every few pages or sighing when I reached a point that I knew wasn't true, or at least couldn't be stated as unwavering fact. As with any part of Irish mythology, everything must be taken with a grain of salt, but at least this author states it from the beginning.

An excellent book for seekers and devotees alike. I can't stop reading it! It's fantastic!! I love all of the information that you give so that I can continue with my own research. I appreciate the fact that you do not attempt to impose your own beliefs and methods onto the reader which I find important when first seeking out a new God/Goddess. I'm not even going to get into what you put about Anu and the fact that you COMPLETELY got Her!!! It drives me INSANE seeing Her painted as a mushy Mother Goddess. Anywho... I could take up so much room going into this book. But instead I will say great job! This is a book I could and will read over and over.

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